

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MASARU
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 14015

LONDON FOR AF/W DIRECTOR SMITH

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NI
SUBJECT: OBASANJO'S CONVERSATION DECEMBER 10 WITH SENATOR CLARK:
NAMIBIA (FOURTH OF FIVE SEPTELS)

REF: LAGOS 13944

1. OBASANJO MAINTAINED THAT THE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN LESS DIFFICULT TO HANDLE THAN ZIMBABWE. YET IT APPEARED TO NIGERIA THAT NAMIBIA "IS BEING SACRIFICED ON THE ALTAR OF ZIMBABWE." OBASANJO SAID NIGERIA CONTINUED TO BELIEVE SOME KIND OF "DEAL" MUST HAVE BEEN MADE WITH VORSTER REGARDING NAMIBIA.

2; OBASANJO INSISTED THAT THE DIALOGUE IN ANY NEW NAMIBIAN CONFERENCE MUST BE BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA ON THE ONE HAND AND NAMIBIA ON THE OTHER WITH THE UN IN THE CENTER. WITHOUT EARLY PROGRESS TOWARD AN INDEPENDENCE CONFERENCE, OBASANJO
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SAID THE ONLY ALTERNATE SEEMED TO BE THE ENTRY OF THE LIBERA-

TION FIGHTERS. HE MAINTAINED THIS WOULD BE "A GREAT PITY."
HE SAID NIGERIA DOESN'T WANT THIS "AND YET IT MAY ALREADY BE
TOO LATE." THIS WAS ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE SITUATIONS IN WHICH
THE US "MUST ACT RATHER THAN REACT." HE CONCLUDED THAT ONLY
THE US HAS THE POWER TO BRING PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA TO
CONVENE AN INDEPENDENCE CONFERENCE WHERE SOUTH AFRICANS
AND "AUTHENTIC NAMIBIANS" COULD GET TOGETHER UNDER UNITED
NATIONS CHAIRMANSHIP AND "KNOCK OUT THE DETAILS OF FULL
INDEPENDENCE." HE WAS DISTRESSED TO OBSERVE THAT, INSTEAD OF EVIDENCE
OF SUCH PRESSURE, ALL HE SAW WAS STALEMATE.

3. COMMENT: IT HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR TO OBASANJO AND TO
GARBA ON AT LEAST FOUR SEPARATE OCCASIONS THAT THE US IS
INVOLVED IN NO RPT NO DEALS ON NAMIBIA. SENATOR CLARK CONFINED HIS
RESPONSE TO SUPPORTING OBASANJO'S PLEA FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT AS ESSENTIAL

TO FORESTALL THE VIOLENCE NOW BREWING IN THE WINGS. HE SAID HE HOPED
THE
CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE EARLY PROGRESS
ON THIS FRONT, AND SAID HE WOULD PERSONALLY DO EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TOWARD THIS END.
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